
IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

For Immediate Release

Case No. PAC-E-03-14

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Website: www.puc.state.id.us

Changes proposed to PacifiCorp irrigation program

Boise – The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is taking comments on some changes proposed for the second year of PacifiCorp's irrigation load control credit rider program. PacifiCorp does business as Utah Power in southeast Idaho, where it has about 58,000 customers.

Under the program, irrigators are paid credits for volunteering to shift their electrical use from super-peak hours to light-load hours during the four-month irrigation season.

Power is more expensive during those hours of the day when it is in most demand. By curtailing use during peak hours or shifting use to hours when demand is less, both the utility and its customers save money.

During the program's first year, about 207 irrigators with 402 metered sites participated in the program resulting in credits valued at \$277,500 paid out over the four-month irrigation season. Demand reduction as a result of the program was about 42 megawatts per month with an estimated 7.9 million kilowatt-hours in total energy savings for the season.

The changes proposed for the second year of the program streamline the enrollment process and make more customers eligible to participate.

PacifiCorp proposes to provide its irrigation customers with a load control service agreement by Jan. 15, 2004. Customers would have one month to determine if they want to participate and would return a signed agreement by Feb. 15. Once PacifiCorp has a good estimate of the number who want to participate it would notify customers of the scheduled hours for load control by March 15. Customers would then have one month, until April 15, to opt out of the program without penalty.

The company is also proposing to drop its previous regulation that made 708 customers who filed a letter of intent to participate last year but then did not participate ineligible to participate in this year's program. Many of those customers chose not to participate due to concerns over costs they would incur to have their meters adjusted. This year, the company is proposing to pay the costs of timers or other load control devices as long as they do not exceed \$1,000.

The program is the result of a commission order issued in June of 2002 that directed the company to develop a load control program that can reduce the company's power supply expenses by preventing it from having to go to the sometimes volatile wholesale market to meet customer demand. The June 2002 order allowed PacifiCorp to recover \$22.7 million in power supply expenses incurred by the company during the 2000-01 period when wholesale electric prices reached record levels.

Those wanting to comment on PacifiCorp's proposed changes to the irrigation load control program must do so by Dec. 30.

Persons wishing to submit comments can do so via e-mail by accessing the commission's homepage at www.puc.state.id.us and clicking on "Comments & Questions." Fill in the case number (PAC-E-03-14) and enter your comments. Comments can also be mailed to P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074 or faxed to (208) 334-3762.

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